

THE BAPTISTS

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BAPTISTS

South Miss. Baptists begin long-term rebuild

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Three Baptist associations that were in the direct path of Hurricane Katrina's fury are banding together to coordinate long-term home rebuilding efforts in the areas hardest hit by the historic storm of August 2005.

The three associations — Jackson, Gulf Coast, and Hancock — are gearing up for the long-term Coast Rebuild effort as short-term volunteers from around the country are winding down their operations and heading home after two-and-a-half years.

"We need volunteers to continue to come. We have lots of teams coming, but we're in serious need of skilled workers and also crew chiefs who can oversee the construction," said David Baldwin, Gulf Coast Association's Katrina construction coordinator.

"If possible, we need the skilled volunteers and crew chiefs to stay a few weeks at a time, but if they need to go home and then come back that would be fine too," he added.

Steve Mooneyham, director of missions for Gulf Coast Association, said an ambitious goal has been set of rebuilding 30 homes as quickly as possible, but it's going to take a God-sized effort.

"We have funding for about 15 homes. We're stepping out on faith," Mooneyham said.

Some of the families in need of home rebuilding have funds and/or materials, but others have no funds at all. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) has provided funding to help with the rebuilds, but it isn't enough to finish all the homes.

More than \$20 million has been earmarked by MBCB for recovery in the aftermath of Katrina. Those funds have come from Mississippi Baptists and thousands of others who donated to the hurricane effort through MBCB. Fully 100% of those donations were passed through to Katrina recovery.

The \$20 million likely represents about half of Southern Baptists' total contributions to the Katrina recovery effort in Mississippi, since the figure does not include the millions of dollars dedicated to the recovery effort by partnership states and other organizations.

"We still need donations from churches and interested groups to make this happen," Mooneyham said.

Volunteers with experience are especially needed in the areas of framing, siding, flooring, and cabinetry, Baldwin said.

"Sometimes it's like throwing a big jigsaw puzzle on a table, to put the right



HERE TO HELP — Scott Saunders (right) is aided by Mike Seipert at a portable sawmill donated by Sierra First Baptist Church in Alta, Calif., where Saunders is pastor and Seipert is a member. Lumber from the sawmill is being used to rebuild houses damaged when Hurricane Katrina blew through Lakeshore along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. (BP photo by Norm Miller)

people together with the right job. We just want folks to know that we appreciate them and want them to keep coming," Mooneyham pointed out.

Mooneyham said Gulf Coast Association is actively encouraging the adoption by churches and organizations of families in need of housing. "We already have several churches signed up," he said.

Baldwin said building codes all across the coast have tightened considerably since the initial rush to rebuild immediately after the storm.

"Churches and organizations that adopt a family will need to stay with them from the pouring of the foundation to move-in day, to be sure it's all done right and finished," Baldwin said. "Because the building codes have become stricter, groups that adopt a family should plan on hiring out the foundation, electrical, and plumbing work to professionals. They'll need to raise the funds to do that."

Jackson County Association in Pascagoula is "totally committed to Coast Rebuild," said Executive Director Charles Rodgers. "Jackson County Association has not set a goal; we want to cover everyone who needs help but doesn't have the resources to get the job done."

Rodgers said rebuilding efforts are winding down in Jackson Association. He believes the county's distance from the main force of the storm left them with a manageable amount of damage.

"The sheer number of volunteers has also helped speed up the process in Jackson Association. We've probably had 20,000 volunteers working with the association since Katrina — and that doesn't include the volunteers who worked through area churches," Rodgers said.

Jackson Association is bringing a Coast Rebuild coordinator on board to string together the program's long-term plans, Rodgers said, and most rebuilding requests from Jackson Association will be referred to Baldwin at Gulf Coast Association, who will assign workers to projects and send them to Jackson Association as needed.

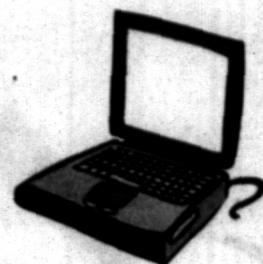
"We want to pick up all we need to do over here, and also help Gulf Coast Association all we can," Rodgers said.

Baldwin said there is one action every Mississippi Baptist can undertake on behalf of the people who will be involved in Coast Rebuild.

"We need prayer. When I think about what we're about to undertake, it's overwhelming," Baldwin said. "Pray for us, and pray for the safety of the workers."

For more information, contact Baldwin at Gulf Coast Association, P.O. Box 2369, Gulfport, MS 39505. Telephone: (228) 832-4311. E-mail: dbgcba@cableone.net.

In Jackson Association, contact Charles Rodgers at P.O. Box 1726, Pascagoula, MS 39568. Telephone: (228) 769-7101. E-mail: crodders@ametro.net.



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Are we really that bad?

Very few articles in The Baptist Record in recent years have generated as much reaction as the February 7 article headlined, "Grisham slams Baptists at Atlanta meeting." As reported by Baptist Press, popular Mississippi novelist John Grisham on January 31 used the occasion of the charter meeting of the New Baptist Covenant to skewer Southern Baptists for, among other things, our belief in the literal nature of the Bible, the role of women in the church, and intolerance toward diversity.

"In the Baptist church of my youth we were taught that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God — every word is divinely inspired and it is to be read literally," Grisham said. "It just dropped out of heaven. Five thousand years ago God made the earth in six days, 144 hours. Then He rested on the Sabbath, which is really on Saturday but we're not going to start that debate. Methuselah lived to be a [thousand], and when Paul wrote that women should be submissive, that was the literal interpretation. It was the law."

"However, when Paul told Timothy to have a little wine," he said to laughter, "and when Jesus said in Mark 16 that His followers would be known for speaking in tongues, taking up the serpents with their hands and drinking the poison, well then some things were not so literal."

Grisham, a well-known supporter of Southern Baptist missions and himself a veteran of international mission trips, also said Baptists "have worked so hard to exclude so many," surely a contradiction of his own experiences as a missions supporter and missions team member. He even used a mission trip to South America as inspiration for one of

his best novels, *The Testament*.

Keep in mind that Grisham was voicing his opinions at a meeting organized by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who publicly broke with the Southern Baptist Convention several years ago, to forge a new Baptist movement. Also speaking at the meeting were such Southern Baptist luminaries as former U.S. President Bill Clinton and his vice-president, Al Gore. Enough said.

In apparent union with universalists, Grisham went on to tell attendees that God "expects us to love and respect each other without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, biblical interpretation, denominations or other religions."

"(Grisham's) comments were heretical," wrote Keith Armstrong of Foxworth. "When we fail to call homosexuality sin, when we no longer believe the Bible is the inerrant and infallible word of God, when we believe that other religions are a valid way to God as is Christianity, then friends we may as well close the doors to our Baptist churches because at that point all we are is another religion of many that has denied the truth of the precious Word of the Living God."

"For Grisham's benefit, he should stick to writing novels. His qualifications to stand before any group of believers is sorely lacking," wrote David Koons of Rena Lara.

"I believe Mr. Grisham's memory is clouded by the fiction he writes, and not the facts



GRISHAM SPEAKS — Author John Grisham encouraged a New Baptist Covenant crowd Thursday not to emulate the church of his youth, which he said held to literal interpretations of Scripture and was intolerant. (BP photo by Cat Norman)

he was taught. His statement, 'It (Scripture) just dropped out of heaven,' is simply not true," wrote Ken Pickens of Tupelo. "Mr. Grisham is making the same mistake that he is criticizing in others. He is speaking in absolutes. His use of proof texts is for the purpose of criticism — not constructive, but condemning."

Those are just a smattering of the comments received in the offices of The Baptist Record. Space limitations do not permit quotes from all the correspondence.

One point seems clear, however. Mississippi Baptists have been hurt to have one of their own accuse them of being un-Christian. No person, church, convention, or denomination is perfect, but Mississippi Baptists together work very hard at presenting the best Christian witness we can. We've come a long way from where we were to where we are today and we may still have along way to go, but give a little credit where due.

That's all we're asking, Mr. Grisham.

GUEST OPINION:



Selecting a new site

By Lloyd Sweatt, pastor
Meadowood Church, Amory

Many are aware of the recent destruction and devastation on Henderson Point caused by Hurricane Katrina.

God used Gulfshore Assembly in a beautiful way. Some on this committee struggled with the task of studying "conferencing" in our state as well as deciding whether to rebuild or relocate what was known as Gulfshore Assembly. We heard testimonies of how God used the piece of land located at Henderson Point to bring individuals to saving faith in our Lord, to call individuals to ministry, to call individuals to the mission field, and to renew commitments to our Lord.

The task of your CSSC is enormous. The charge before us is, "How do we take the testimonies, the experiences of what God did at Henderson Point, to another piece of land?" This task at times can seem overwhelming.

Where do we locate a piece of land that God will use to touch lives? In Genesis 12:1, the Lord charged Abram with these words, "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee." In Hebrews 11:8, we discover that it was by faith that Abraham, "...obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."

I believe that what we do will not have the same impact, nor set the course of a nation, as did Abraham — but what we do will have an impact and set the course of an individual who could change the course of our nation.

Our journey together is not only a physical journey; it is a faith journey. I have asked the CSSC members to:

• Listen to the direction the Lord desires for us to go.

• Look and see the beautiful areas of our State, but to see with eyes of faith as well.

• Lead with integrity and character to help Mississippi Baptists discover what we will hear and see from our Lord.

What can you do to assist this committee? Pray! Pray for the committee members, our MBC leaders, and for camps and conferencing in our state. Participate! Offer suggestions of places and pieces of land that you see. You can do this in two ways:

• Go to www.mbc.org and click on Conference Site Selection Committee.

• Write to the Conference Site Selection Committee, Attn. Dr. Lloyd Sweatt, 1512 Hatley Road Amory, MS 38821.

If submitting a location idea, please be certain to include an accurate description of the location, property size, name of current owner, and their contact information. Please note that while all recommendations and referrals will be reviewed by the Conference Site Selection Committee, no commissions or fees will be paid for the information or any subsequent action taken by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Most importantly, the committee solicits your prayers as we seek to glorify God through this decision-making process.

So. Baptists ignore danger to minister in Kenya

TIGONI, Kenya (BP) — Helicopters swoop in, hovering over the rioting youth. The Kenyan youth thrust their pangas (machetes) and sticks in the air, shouting threats as they make an improvised road-block out of burning tires and large rocks.

A military man leans out the open door of the helicopter and fires tear gas into the crowd. It's a temporary fix but enough to scatter everyone. When the gas fades, the crowds continue wreaking havoc on motorists. They set fire to houses along the road. Residents run screaming, searching for safety.

Thousands run to the Tigoni police station, just miles from the chaos. It is here they find safety. And it is here the smiling faces of Southern Baptist mission volunteers greet them.

When post-election violence broke out in Kenya in December, members of Stevens Street Church in Cookeville, Tenn., watched news reports, wondering what might happen to the volunteer trip they'd been planning for months. The 10-member team decided to go to Kenya despite the ongoing violence. The team quickly changed their plans from working in the slums of Nairobi to working in camps for internally displaced people.

The United Nations estimates more than 600,000 Kenyans are displaced in 44 camps around the country.

Pastor Tim Frank acknowledges this trip was part of God's timing. "We were literally in one of the camps the day more violence erupted in the country and, as a result, thousands of people trooped in," Frank recounts.

"The camp went from a few hundred people to almost 7,000 in a day. We've been able to help with this heavy influx of people and really feel like we've made a difference."

Just a week earlier, there was plenty of room at the makeshift camp for displaced people to spread out and for children to run and play. Now, stacks of furniture sit piled high. Tents made of tarps stake out every available space inside the guarded compound, which sits on two acres. Children still play, only now they run up and down narrow paths between tents, jumping over ropes and stakes.

At the front of the camp is an outdoor kitchen. Large pots of food constantly are

cooking on wood fires. Shoulder-high piles of green beans and peas lay on the ground. Volunteers Lewan Hedrick and Karen Cockerham sit at the edges of the pile, shelling beans with their Kenyan Baptist partners from Ridgeways Baptist Church in Nairobi.

The women sit talking and laughing. Drawn by these sounds of life, women living in the camp begin to come over to help. A few minutes later, children crowd around the Americans, eager to lend a helping hand in exchange for a little attention. Soon the entire group is singing praise songs, the beat carried by the staccato snapping of beans.

Between songs, the women share stories of terror at being forced from their homes. One young mother tells of hardships within the camp. She must stand in line for hours to receive food due to the large number of people, but this makes it hard for her to care for her young children so she has gone a day without food.

Without drawing attention, Hedrick slips the mother her own lunch and continues snapping beans as if nothing has happened. Tears well up in the young mother's eyes.

"It's a roller coaster ride for me," Cockerham says about working in the camp. "I enjoy talking to the people, and they really need someone to listen to them, but when you see the situation they are living in and see kids line up two times and never get food... it's very emotional."

Kenyan Baptist volunteer Jeddah nods in agreement. Even though she's a trained social worker, the stories she hears shock her. Jeddah translates the stories for the Americans while interjecting applicable Bible verses.

For the Kenyans, once they enter the camp, they no longer go by their family names. Their name tags only show their given names in an effort to protect them from tribal animosities and accusations of tribal favoritism. In Kenya, family names identify which tribe a person belongs to.



DESPERATE TIMES — Children at a camp for displaced Kenyans line up for a lunch of beans and maize. Volunteers work around the clock to prepare food for thousands who have sought refuge since deadly unrest broke out after elections in December. (BP photo)

During these turbulent times, it is best to be as neutral as possible.

Jeddah admits she was scared to go in and out of the displaced camps as a volunteer. "Our American brothers and sisters gave us the courage to leave our homes," she says. "If they can come all this way to minister, then I can leave the safety of my house. I'm so glad I came. I would have hated to miss this blessing."

A loudspeaker squawks into action, drowning out Jeddah. An American accent echoes through the camp, followed by a Kenyan accent. Pastor Frank tag-teams a sermon with Kenyan Baptist pastor Elijah. Many come forward, asking for prayer.

The sound of the sermon barely reaches the back part of the camp where the Baptist volunteers stake new tents in the ground. Many of the displaced have no shelter. The nights in Tigoni can be very cold, and then there's the occasional rain.

A band of children are entertained as they watch the Kenyans and Americans try to figure out the confusing tent directions. Finally, the first tent goes up and everyone lets out a cheer. Two families stand nearby, ready to move in.

"I don't feel I'm doing enough," volunteer Ron Cockerham says, despite the fact the team spent all their time working in the displaced camps. "I've never been in this situation before. You see it on television and might send a few bucks to help out, but I never thought about the people in these camps being people just like me."

"I grew up on the streets and I've been hungry," he continues. "Jesus filled me with His compassion. I feel like God brought me here to share His compassion and love."

USCIRF: enforce decisions

WASHINGTON (BP) — Egypt's government should "respect and enforce" two recent decisions by that nation's highest court, according to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). The decisions can advance religious freedom in Egypt, commission chairman Michael Cromartie said. A Feb. 9 ruling reversed a lower court's prohibition on citizens being allowed to return to Christianity after converting to Islam. In January, the high court overturned a government ban on the ability of members of the Baha'i faith to obtain official identity documents. Before this ruling, only three faiths had been approved for registration documents: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Without one of those faiths listed on an identity card, followers of the minority Baha'i faith could not gain official recognition necessary to have access to several public services. Even with the recent rulings, the commission remains concerned over violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion in Egypt. The country is predominantly Muslim, and the government promotes and regulates Islam. The commission has placed Egypt on its watch list of countries that are not considered the world's worst violators of religious liberty but require monitoring because of discriminatory or repressive policies. "These twin decisions can be helpful steps toward meaningful reform if respected by Egyptian authorities," Cromartie said. "After a long period of setbacks in the sphere of religious freedom, Egyptian courts have delivered some rulings that have the potential to help address aspects of these discriminatory policies. The next essential step is for these rulings to be fully implemented in practice." More information on commission recommendations for Egypt can be found in its 2007 report at www.uscirf.gov.

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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Looking back

10 years ago

The Southern Baptist Convention will not pull out of the Baptist World Alliance, reports a committee named to investigate charges of liberalism within the worldwide Baptist fellowship.

20 years ago

Joe H. Tuten announces his retirement from the pastorate of Calvary Church, Jackson, after 27 years. Tuten came to Calvary from First Church, Biloxi. He and his wife, the former Ruth Jarrell, will return to his home state of South Carolina upon his retirement.

30 years ago

SBC treasurer Porter Routh signs the largest check ever sent to an agency of the Convention — \$2,692,147 to the Foreign Mission Board.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BATTERY CHECK

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could somehow check our spiritual batteries? It just seems like it would be good if we had some gauge that we could look at and tell if our batteries are charged or if they are just about drained. It might help us out in getting through life, especially when we are facing tough times.

Have you ever noticed how when a little cool snap comes in the weather during the fall that so many cars will not start? Through the years I can remember numerous times when I would go out and get in the car and it would growl a little bit and then just sit there. It would not crank. It was then and only then that the battery got my full attention, for to my total surprise it had lost all of its strength and would not perform the one operation that was needed the most. It was just dead.

Now if the truth be known and if what I am told is factual, what happens to the battery is that it gradually loses its strength and may be living right on the edge of life and death. The cold weather that comes in suddenly puts it over the edge, and it will just not work. Now, as long as the weather was fine and things were going well the battery could take care of it, but when it was pressed a little bit and a greater need existed it just



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

could not handle it.

The battery in our car may be a whole lot like our spiritual battery, in that we rock along and do pretty well as long as the weather is good and life is fairly easy, but then when the weather changes, times are difficult, and we are pressed in new ways, the battery may go kaput. Now, as you well know, when the battery goes, you are not going to go. You will be stuck right where you are. Regardless of how powerful your engine may be, if your reserve power in your battery is gone, nothing is going to happen.

Think about your spiritual battery for a moment. There is a sense in which you cannot save up spiritual capital for a rainy day, but there is a sense in which walking with the Lord will enable you to be ready, strengthened, undergirded, and overshadowed by the help that comes from the Lord. It is not as though you can fill up a bucket full of spiritual power, hold it in reserve, and walk on without the Lord.

God sought to teach His people in the wilderness that they

would need Him every day, so He would give them manna each morning. They were not to accumulate or stash it away in reserve for weeks at a time, for it would just ruin. It is not that He did not want them to have the precious manna; He wanted them to learn to trust Him each day. He was going to provide for their needs, and they could depend upon Him. God wants us to learn and live by that principle of trusting Him moment-by-moment and day-by-day. He will provide for us. There was the exception that before the Sabbath Day they could gather enough for two days. On that day when they were supposed to be looking to the Lord in new and wonderful ways as they worshipped Him, everything was already in place for their physical needs. The God who provides also can preserve.

That leads to another thought that we need to consider. It is not easy for us to see how much we have in reserve. It is difficult for us to measure what sort of reserve we have, but it is also impossible for us to see what strength is available in others. We may be able to see some things that may cause us to wonder if a friend or family member has enough reserve to get through. Maybe you have observed a friend who is going through a very difficult time. It just seems as though one difficulty after another is layered on in their life and at every turn something seems to be going wrong. How much can they stand? How long will their battery keep starting up their daily engine? We cannot see their reserves, but it seems as though Jesus during His earthly ministry could, and even now He clearly knows.

It is not just physical reserves on which we seem to have to daily draw. It is mental, emotional, and spiritual strength that sometimes seems to wane. One of the reasons that the Lord makes the church a loving place of great resources is because we can help one another. With the genius of God Himself, He provides for us to be in a position to "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). Although we may not be able to see our own or somebody else's battery gauge, we can be alert and be sensitive to the needs they may have and be ready to step in to help when they falter.

I am so thankful that through the years at the worst of times when my battery stopped and my engine would not start, there was somebody — at times

even a total stranger — close by with battery cables. They would hook up their battery and strong engine to my dead battery and powerless engine and get me started. Even though we do not have an external gauge that we can watch and see our battery level, we can keep up to some degree with our strength. How? Well, there are external things to watch.

The weather folks watch the externals. It is the weather people who let us know the possible outbreaks of bad weather that are going to take place and where the high-risk areas are going to be. We need to pay attention to the external forces around us that are going to affect us and draw on our strength. Wisdom dictates that we should be alert to people around us who might be zapping and draining our energy. Have you noticed those kinds of people around you? Isn't it interesting that just to be in some people's presence is a force of strength, help, and encouragement? Other people always seem to say the right word and do the right thing at the wrong time to make you feel depleted, inadequate, and even empty. I am not suggesting that you just ignore, avoid, or never be around those kinds of folks, but just as a person who hears that there is a front coming through with possible hail, winds, and torrential rains doesn't go running out to stand in it, I would suggest that there are times that you might be best served not to be drained anymore.

Another thing that would be healthy to watch is the internal resources. While the externals can affect you, not paying attention to the internal needs and refreshing the supply of internal resources can be critical. For me personally, I have found that the only way that I can find strength day-by-day to get through whatever may be in the road is through a consistent, trusting, and ever-relying relationship with the almighty Jesus.

While I have met many things that I could not handle, I have never seen one thing yet that superseded His strength, so I have found that if I consistently stay close to Him, everything is all right. I guess it is the ultimate in knowing where to get your battery recharged. Psalm 23:3 is certainly not talking about old run-down batteries, but it is certainly focused on our lives when they are run down. The Psalmist says, "He restores my soul."

Pause a moment to ask the Lord and permit the Lord to restore you, re-energize your spirit, and renew His power within you.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

2008 Family Celebration

Saturday, March 8
10 am - 3 pm

Antioch Baptist Church,
1044 High School Rd.
Leakesville, MS 39451

- Special guest: Ventriloquist Judy Marby
- Live music by: The Worship Band & youth praise band of Lucedale's FBC
- Free admission, free food, rock-climbing wall, church booths, clowns, inflatable jumpers & lots more fun for the whole family.
- Registration begins at 10 am
- Directions: take Hwy 63 north to Hwy 57 south at Leakesville. Turn left onto High School Road (at Wildcat Korner). Antioch church is 3.4 miles past Green County High School.

For more info, call Jimmy Holcomb at the
George-Greene Baptist Association office, 601-947-4981.
Sponsored by the George-Greene Baptist Association
& the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 21, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



VBS Leadership Trainings are back for '08!

April 21, North Oxford, Oxford

FBC, Louisville

FBC, Natchez

April 22, Gaston, Booneville

FBC, Belzoni

FBC, Purvis

April 24, Clarksdale, Clarksdale

FBC, Meridian

Schedule for all conferences:

6:30 p.m. Worship rally

7-9 p.m. Conference

CONFERENCES OFFERED

Outrigger Island

Younger Preschool Conference
Older Preschool Conference
Younger Children's Conference
Middle Children's Conference
Older Children's Conference
Youth Conference Adult Conference
Pastor/Evangelism Conference
General Officer Conference
Special Ministries Conference
Children's Rotation:
Missions, Music, Crafts, Snacks

Club VBS - Cactus Canyon



WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND YOUR CHURCH VBS LEADERSHIP TO BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING EVENT. WE GUARANTEE A FUN TIME OF FELLOWSHIP.

To register or for more information contact Angie Boydston, Preschool/Children's Consultant with the Sunday School Dept. at 601.292.3294 or 1.800.748.1651, ext 294, or by E-mail aboydstun@mbcb.org

Young Pastor's Retreat

"Dealing with the Stuff of Ministry"

Pine Ridge Lodge

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, Miss.

(Highway 15 south of Louisville)

MARCH 28-29, 2008

2 p.m. on Friday - 1 p.m. on Saturday
For pastors age 30 and younger

Casual dress



Leaders

- Chuck Register
- John Temple
- Ron Mumbower
- Robin Nichols

The retreat brings together young pastors to focus on the essentials of ministry and good pastoral work in today's environment. Opportunities will be provided to network with other young pastors from across the state and dialogue about current realities in ministry. Plan to attend for your benefit and the benefit of other young pastors.

For more info, please contact Alan Woodward

- Phone: 601.292.3308 or 800.748.1651, ext. 308
- E-mail: awoodward@mbcb.org
- Fax: 601.714.7426
- Mail: C. Alan Woodward, PO Box 530, Jackson 39205-0530

YOUTH MINISTERS SPRING TRAINING EVENT

Monday, March 3 – FBC, Starkville

Tuesday, March 4 – FBC, Mendenhall

10:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

No cost/Lunch provided!



TOPICS:

- Developing Student Leaders
- Being an Effective Teacher/Speaker
- Cultivating a Missions/Service Mindset

A "Rookie" session is designed for those new to student ministry or new to their church at 9:30 a.m.,

- "Things I Wish I Knew When I Started."

SPEAKER
Gary Permenter

To register, please E-mail khall@mbcb.org or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 283. It will really help us if you would let us know you're coming!

East Mississippi Sisters Who Really Care Rally "Running the Race"

Saturday, May 17, 2008

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lauderdale Association Office, Marion

Cost: Bring Someone With You!

Enjoy a Saturday with Sisters – Inspiring Worship, Sharing, Prayer and a fun Teatime are planned, especially for you!

Don't miss it! Casual attire.

Questions? Call the Mississippi wMu, 601-292-3324 or 1-800-748-1651

"Lord of the Ring-less"



2008 Singles Retreat
May 17-18

Central Hills, Kosciusko

Registration: **Saturday, 1:30 p.m.**

Cost: **Unit A - \$45**

2-4 persons with a private
bath, includes linens

Unit B - \$35

4-10 individuals with shared
bath, includes linens

Commuter - \$10

Saturday activities/BBQ

Send registration fee to:

MBCB - Conference
Ministry Office
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

For more information call:

800-748-1651

Receive a t-shirt when you register by May 1.

Deadline to register is May 12.

Ministry
from
the Heart



... as He leads

Conference Speaker
Elisa McCurley

CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY RETREAT

BROCHURE WITH MORE INFO
TO BE MAILED SOON!!!

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Basic Administration - Led by Sue Berthelot

Developing & Nurturing Your Ministry Team - Led by Eva Nell Hunter

Keeping the Main Thing The Main Thing - Led by Sue Berthelot

Let's Met Melvil & Minnie - Led by Eva Nell Hunter

Reaching the "J's" - Led by Sue Berthelot

Tips, Tricks and Tidbits - Led by Eva Nell Hunter

Stamping 101 - Led by Susan Robinson

Going Beyond: Stamping 201 - Led by Susan Robinson

QUESTIONS?
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Judy Chen
MBCB
Communication
Services
1-800-748-1651
601-292-3378
jchen@mbcb.org

July 14-18, 2008
Mississippi College

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REGISTRATION BEGINS
MARCH 1

Summer
Camp

CHURCH FACILITIES &
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March 16, 2008
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Parkway BC, Clinton
802 North Frontage Road
Clinton, MS 39056
Pastor Leadership Development
Department of Ministry
A Special Committee of the MBCB

Family Day

FREE hamburgers and hot dogs!

Registration begins at 10 a.m.
We will adjourn at 3 p.m.

Antioch BC, Leakesville
601-394-2657

Special Guest Speaker
Judy Marby, Ventriloquist
Children's activities / booths / games / craft races /
clowns / and much more!

(Sponsored by the George-Greene Baptist Association Office and the MBCB)

March 27-29, 2008
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

55+ MINISTRIES

2008 55 Plus Leadership Lab

Tuesday, March 4 / Camp Garaywa, Clinton / 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cost: \$10 includes meals (Deadline to register is Feb. 25.)
\$5 at the door (no meals included)

To register call MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3373, or E-mail
gshows@mbcb.org or dbrashier@mbcb.org.

This leadership lab is for all leaders of 55 plus adults, officers,
Sunday School teachers, ministers, etc. Handouts will be available.

9 a.m.	Registration and refreshments
9:30 a.m.	Welcome - "Seniors on Mission with God" Bob Jackson, Director of Senior Missions Lab, NOBTS
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Eileen Wright, Alabama Baptist Convention Senior Adult Consultant
noon	Lunch
1 p.m.	Panel Discussions with Bob and Eileen
2 p.m.	Adjourn

2008 PREACHING CONFERENCE

FEATURED
PRESENTER
Jerry Songer

Interim pastor
First Baptist Church
Orangeburg, S.C.

Monday, April 21

First Baptist Church
Louisville

Tuesday, April 22

First Baptist Church
Natchez

For more information, contact:
(601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651,
ext. 305, or kmcconnell@mbcb.org

SINGLE Life Conferences

Tuesday, March 4

East Philadelphia BC, Philadelphia

CONFERENCES:

- Forgiveness
Glenn Shows, MBCB
- Picking up the Pieces
Cecil Stanback, Monticello

Tuesday, March 25

Tylertown BC, Tylertown

CONFERENCES:

- Singleness with a Purpose
Glenn Shows, MBCB
- One-Won-1
Troy Williams, Tylertown

Thursday, March 27

FBC, Ripley

CONFERENCES:

- Singleness with a Purpose
Glenn Shows, MBCB
- Five Love Languages
Gwen Williams, Ripley

All conferences begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. (Free meal provided.) For more info, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 601-292-3373 or gshows@mbcb.org

FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS WHO HAVE COMPLETED GRADES 3-7

Bible study, Bible memorization, Bible skill, worship, campfire service, morning watch, time with Southern Baptist missionaries, horseback riding, rifle range [safety/marksmanship], swimming, canoeing, four-square
... and much more!



Cost \$95
with \$50
deposit
due with
preregistration

Each church group must have an adult male counselor for every six boys (or portion thereof) and an adult female counselor for every six girls (or portion thereof). Campers are together with the counselors from their church all during camp.

Camp begins with check-in at 2 p.m., Monday, June 30, and ends at noon on Wednesday, July 2.

For more info, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department 601-292-3287 or dhicks@mbcb.org

Summer Youth Camps • Grades 7-12

JUNE 2-25, 2008

Hinds Community College
Raymond, Miss.



Gary Permenter and Chris Layton
Fish Robinson and TBA
J.D. Simpson and Will Reedy
Walt Barnes and Tom Edwards
Josh Braddy and Tom Edwards

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer. he enables me to go on the heights."

Pray with Cuban Baptists who want 1 million people on their island to personally know Christ by the year 2010. They are calling for Baptists in Cuba and around the world to join them in prayer for this goal to be reached during "50 Days of Prayer for Cuba," beginning Easter Sunday, 2008.

(1) North American Missions Emphasis Week (wMu); (2) Eddie is director of missions for the Big Sky Association in Montana. Pray that God will send special laborers to three churches that have recently lost pastors. They need bi-vocational pastors capable of living in rural areas.

A Christian church in India put on a Christmas program in a Brahman Hindu community in Delhi. The group was so excited to hear about Jesus that they invited the Christians to come back on a monthly basis and share. Pray for continued openness and for God to give this church the wisdom and leadership to fulfill this opportunity.

Enrique and Francisca are church planters in Kansas. They are planning to have tent revivals this spring in 10 different locations. Pray that God will use these events to further the Kingdom of God and create new opportunities to expand this ministry to the growing Hispanic community.

Pray for a worker who is traveling to another country. While there, he will teach a group of church leaders, arrange to have Bibles delivered to local Muslims, and work with other workers to develop a long-term strategy for that city.

Senior Adult Leadership Lab, Camp Garaywa. Pray for this new training lab ministry which is for the purpose of teaching people how to effectively minister to senior adults in their churches. Pray for the senior adults in our churches to seek God's guidance in ministry, remembering we never retire from ministering to one another.

A group of Iranians experienced a powerful move of God's Spirit in a Middle Eastern country. Workers ask: "Please pray that we can have regular follow up with them, and get them the Bibles and audio materials they need. Please pray that we will be able to organize a long-term effort to disciple those who respond positively to the gospel."

Lawrence and Laura are church planters in Oklahoma. Lawrence pastors Good Shepherd Chapel and is pleased to work with Mission Shawnee to meet the needs of families in their community. Pray for this growing ministry, for God's continued protection and for God to be glorified.

Associational Missions Directors Interpretation Meeting, Camp Garaywa (MS). Pray that each AMD will get a clear understanding of what each MBCB department offers. Pray that they will have God's wisdom to determine which upcoming events will uniquely benefit the churches in their association.

Doug is director of international ministries for Mobile Association in Alabama. Pray God will give churches a vision for the 29 language groups and ethnicities and that He will send a USC2 missionary to serve in their International Language School, as well as port chaplain in the ministry to seafarers.

(1) Christian Performing Arts Festival, 22-23, FBC, Clinton. Pray that the participants will learn how to share God's love through the creative arts. (2) Pray for the Sovereign Lord of the Universe to take charge of the upcoming elections in the USA and bring about His perfect will for our country. Pray for Christians to prayerfully vote.

(1) Global Impact Conference, Camp Garaywa (MMOB). Pray that people in our state will come to the conference and connect church planters and missionaries at the conference in order to become more focused in their outreach; (2) Ignite (formerly Mississippi Acteens Convention). Pray for each girl to deepen their commitment to Christ.

(1) State Keyboard Festival, Woodland Hills BC, Jackson (CM); (2) Young Ringers Festival, Camp Garaywa (CM); (3) For both of the music events mentioned above, pray that the participants will dedicate their musical skills to be used for God's glory and honor.

A long-term training initiative has begun in Central Asia. Please pray for those who attend, asking that they will travel safely to and from the events. Also please pray that the material will help keep the young churches faithfully tethered to God's Word.

Mississippi wMu Associational Missions Leadership Training

Called to Love ...
Amazing Grace

April 18-19, 2008
Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

Registration of lodging and meals required.

Call Lisa Miller in the MS wMu office for registration form – 601-292-3317.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

- 1:30 – 2:00 General Assembly
- 2:15 – 3:15 Session 1 – Leadership Conferences
- 3:30 – 4:30 Session 2 – Leadership Conferences
- 4:30 – 5:30 Free time with options
- 5:30 – 7:00 Dinner & Worship Celebration combined
- 7:15 – 8:45 Session 3 – Leadership Conferences
- 9:00 Fellowship

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast with Missions Moments
- 8:45 – 9:45 Session 4 – Leadership Conferences
- 9:45 – 10:00 Break
- 10:00 – 11:00 Session 5 – Leadership Conferences
- 11:15 – 12:00 Session 6 – Idea Swap
- 12:15 – 1:30 Lunch & Commissioning of Associational Teams
- 1:30 – 3:00 Optional planning – Associational team planning on your own.

Global Impact Celebration

February 29, 2 p.m. – March 1, noon
Camp Garaywa

Connect with a missionary/outreach in order to develop more focused and ongoing continuity and interest for your church's mission activities!

Special Guests YOU can connect with ...

- **David Andrew Fox, International Sports Missions**
This is a great connection for you if you are interested in sports missions! Don't miss this opportunity to interact with David!
- **Kevin Shearer, Lima Peru Strategy Coordinator**
Learn more about ways you can connect with mission opportunities in Peru! Start an ongoing relationship with Peruvians.
- **Clark Rumfelt, pastor, Church at Westerly, Westerly, Rhode Island**
You can make a difference in New England! Come meet Clark and plan a church mission trip to New England!
- **Terry Sharp, IMB, director, State and Association Relations –**
Terry helps state convention leaders and local associations develop strategies and products to mobilize for missions.
- **Karen Moore, MBCB consultant, Missions Mobilization.** Karen will teach two conferences on Chronological Bible Storying. This is an important skill to utilize with illiterate or pre-literate groups. A great skill to use in the USA or internationally!

For more info, contact MBCB Missions Mobilization at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3398 or bbridges@mbcb.org

Controversial pastor again under scrutiny

BUENA PARK, Calif. (BP and local reports) — The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has opened an inquiry into an Aug. 11, 2007, "personal endorsement" of presidential candidate Mike Huckabee issued by Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., on church letterhead.

That endorsement was followed three days later with a similar announcement on a local radio program Drake broadcasts from the church building.

Drake is a perennial presence at open microphones during general business sessions of annual meetings. He is best known in Southern Baptist circles for his successful motion at the 1997 SBC annual meeting to boycott The Disney Company for its support of homosexual activist causes. Messengers to the 2005 annual meeting approved a resolution ending the boycott.

Drake also clashed with local authorities over the use of the neighborhood church he pastors as a ministry to homeless people, and he was briefly in the media spotlight in 2006 when he created letterhead for himself as Southern Baptist

Convention (SBC) second vice president and used it to endorse a candidate for U.S. Senate. He received a stern warning from D. August Boto, the SBC Executive Committee's general counsel that such activities should cease.

In a letter dated Feb. 5, IRS staff member Marsha A. Ramirez informed the church that the federal agency was opening "a church tax inquiry... because we believe it is necessary to resolve questions concerning your tax-exempt status as a church." The letter included a lengthy list of questions about the endorsements.

The inquiry is the result of a complaint against Drake filed about six months ago by an advocacy group, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, after Drake announced his endorsement. Americans United issued a statement Feb. 13 to praise the IRS for opening an inquiry.

"I commend the IRS for investigating Pastor Drake's flagrant abuse of church resources," said Barry W. Lynn, Americans United executive director, in the press release. "This is a clear signal to clergy that the IRS is serious about enforcing federal tax



Drake

law. When Religious Right operatives try to enlist churches in partisan political machines, they are putting those congregations' tax exemptions at risk. Americans go to church to grow spiritually, not to be lectured on which political candidate to vote for."

Drake's attorney, Erik Stanley of the Alliance Defense Fund, counters that Americans United misrepresented Drake's endorsement of Huckabee.

"What Wiley did was a personal endorsement sent out as a

press release on Wiley Drake's personal e-mail account. He made it clear it was a personal endorsement, and it was not sent to any church members," Stanley said. "It was said on his personal radio show, The Wiley Drake Show, which is not affiliated with or paid for by the church. There was no church money spent. He did identify himself as the pastor of the church, but that is perfectly permissible."

Filing the IRS complaint is an attempt by Americans United to silence pastors in the public arena, Stanley added. "One of the things Americans United has done over the years is put forth a version of the facts that has no basis in reality. It is just an intimidation tactic," he said.

"They are flat-out wrong on the facts, and they are flat-out wrong on the law. They know it, but they continue to try to intimidate pastors into silence.

"Pastors have the same First Amendment rights as anybody else. They don't need to be silent," Stanley said. "They have every right to speak out from the pulpit on the moral issues of the day. They have every right to personally endorse candidates. Nobody should intimidate them into silence."

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

WXM LZYPY HWOY W
UKSHY NPKO ZYWUYX,
JWBSXT, LZKC WPL OB
QYRKUYM JKX SX AZKO S
WO AYRR ERYWJYM.

OWPV KXY: YRYUYX

Clue: L = T

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis Four: Six.

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Mississippi College's School of Education has hired Tommie Henderson to teach in the school's new doctoral program, beginning fall, 2008. Henderson was the Clinton Public Schools superintendent.



4. Moser and Leighty, Blue Mountain College

2. Green Acres star Tom Lester will speak at the Christian Leadership Lecture Mar. 3, 9:30 a.m., in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University.

3. Clint Martin, a Tuskegee historian and artist, will speak at William Carey University Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Student Conference Center of Wilkes Hall on the Hattiesburg campus. Sponsored by the African American Cultural Society, the presentation is a part of Black History Month events at Carey.



5. WCU 2008 Board of Trustees officers

4. Sarah Leighty, Lake City, Fla., a biology honors student, and Jack Moser, associate professor, have been named the Blue Mountain College HEADWAE student and faculty member for 2008. Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence was established by the Mississippi Legislature in 1988 and recognized students and faculty members from each of the state's 36 public and private colleges and universities.

5. William Carey University recently announced officers for the 2008 Board of Trustees including Joseph Fail of Bay Springs, chair of Committee on Budget, Finance, Investments and Audits; Lewis Myrick of Hattiesburg, chair of Committee on Development, Facilities, and Long Range Planning; Hugh Dickens of Columbia, chair of Committee on Academic Programs, Faculty Resources, and Institutional Assessment; LaRue Stephens of Long Beach, chair of Committee on Student Programs, Enrollment and Spiritual Life; Odean Busby of Magee, chairman of the board; and Gary Fordham of Petal, vice-chairman of the board.

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You're Invited OPEN HOUSE
Saturday February 23
10 am & 1 pm

Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Jackson
Entertainment, refreshments and trip information.
Groups welcome.

Call 601-371-8733 for reservations
and to be eligible for \$5,000 in prizes!

Win trip for 2 to Pensacola, FL to see Bill Gaither & Ernie Haase in concert. 3 days 2 nights at Crown Plaza & Bellingrath Gardens & Naval Aviation Museum.

PURPOSE DRIVEN TOURS

2008 tour schedule: Alaska, The Wild West, rural New England in the Fall, Branson in the Ozarks, National Quartet Convention, Gaither concert & festival, Smokey Mountain Christmas, Nashville Christmas, Washington & Williamsburg



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April 21-22, 2008

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www.mbc.org

MS POSITIONS

ROSELAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH in Picayune, Miss., is searching for a full-time minister of music. Worship services (2 in the a.m., and 1 evening) are blended in musical style. Seminary degree or current student preferred. Send resumes to 2130 Highway 11 North, Picayune, MS 39466, attn: music search committee.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, Water Valley, Miss., is seeking a part-time music/youth minister. Please send resumes to Bethel Baptist Church, c/o Bill Finch, 500 S. Main Street, Water Valley, MS 38965-3327. email: bfinch.es@bellsouth.net phone: (662) 473-3667.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of music and/or youth. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BRANDON Miss., is currently accepting resumes from qualified applicants for the staff position of minister of music and worship. Resumes may be submitted in writing to Dr. Kevin Cooper, associate pastor of worship and students, c/o FBC Brandon, 309 S. College St, Brandon, MS 39042. Or email to KLCooper@FBCBrandon.com and cc: DLoft@FBCBrandon.com.

EAST MOSS POINT BAPTIST CHURCH, Jackson County, Miss., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to East Moss Point Baptist Church, pastor search committee, 7842 Misty Meadow Dr., Moss Point, MS 39563.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, VICKSBURG, MISS., seeking individual for full-time minister of music/education. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, attn: personnel committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180. Or email to IBC_personnel@yahoo.com or contact Michael Bull at (601) 218-5325.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Pearson Church, Pearl: 100th anniversary, May 4, 10 a.m.; photos and other memorabilia are needed, and can be sent to the church at 151 S. Pearson Rd., Pearl, 39208. For more information, call (601) 939-3618 or chairman Pauline Corban at 939-9067.

Calvary Church, Macon: Revival, Mar. 2 - 5; Sun., 9:30 a.m.; nightly, 6:30 p.m.; lunch, Mon. - Wed., noon; Jim Futral, speaker; Chuck Cotton, music; Greg Duncan, pastor.

Tate Church, Corinth: Revival, Feb. 24-27; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., noon luncheon and 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaker; Harold Turner, music; Gregg Thomas, music.

Wyatte Church, Senatobia: Revival results; 51 people saved, eight joining by letter.

Petal-Harvey Church, Petal: Centennial Celebration, Aug. 9-10; for information, contact Wendall Frazier at (601) 583-1743 or wfrazier@petalharvey.org; the committee is seeking old photos, memorabilia, and newspaper articles to use in writing the history of the church.

Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale: Revival, Feb. 24 - 27; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Lynn Harrington, music; Joey Barnard, pastor.



STAFF CHANGES

Tate Church, Corinth, has called Harold Turner as minister of music and senior adults. Turner comes from First Church, Calhoun City. He holds degrees from Delta State University and Southern Seminary.

Bill Barton has retired as pastor after 15 years at Wade Church, Moss Point. Oliver Cagle, Mobile, Ala., is serving as interim pastor.

Big Ridge Church, D'Iberville, has called Raymond Gilbert as pastor. His family includes wife Jennifer and sons, Alexander and Zachary.

OBITUARY

E. Lowell Adams, 89, of Memphis died Jan. 21 at Baptist Desoto Hospital. Adams was pastor emeritus of Gracewood Church, Southaven. Adams pastored churches in Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri and held several denominational posts. He held degrees from William Jewel College and Southern Seminary. He was preceded in death by his wife Jeanne.

RITA SWEATT: At the feet of Jesus

*We are having our annual community
Bible study conference "At the Feet of Jesus"
featuring Rita Sweatt, February 28th
& March 1st at Harrisburg Baptist Church,
Tupelo, Mississippi.*

Registration is Feb. 29, 5:30 pm with the conference beginning at 6:30 pm. Registration on Saturday March 1st at 8 am with conference beginning at 8:30 am.

*Tickets are \$20 & are available at
Harrisburg Baptist Church
or write Community Bible Study,
P.O. Box 15, Amory, MS 38821
or call 662-257-9043 for more info.*

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CABIN IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT:

2 bedrm 2 bath; full kitchen, great view of National Park, \$95.00/nite. Call for information (281) 855-4469 or (832) 922-0401/0141. Email pdwi4760@att.net.

FOR SALE: YAMAHA ORGAN MODEL # DK401. Very good condition. Appraised value - \$2,500. Would accept any reasonable offer. Call Peggy at (601) 544-2589.

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH in Tullahoma, Tennessee, is accepting resumes for Pastor. Seminary degree and minimum five years experience required. Please send resume to stones@cales.net, or mail to Steve Stone - PSC, 203 Carol Lynne Ave., Tullahoma, Tennessee 37388.

ADVENTURE TO EUREKA SPRINGS, AR and Branson, MO. May 5-9. Pine Mountain Jamboree and Great Passion Play. Contact Joe Hudson with Active Christian Tours, (601) 933-2061 or (601) 842-6147. Deadline for reservations is March 1. Groups welcome.

MORGAN CITY BAPTIST CHURCH has a steeple to give away. It is constructed of aluminum, about 35-39 feet tall. The steeple is not attached to a building & can be easily loaded onto a trailer or truck for transportation. For more info call Br. David at (662) 299-8925.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: looking for someone wanting to be involved with sublimation (photo transfer to ceramic tiles) and/or internet research of photos related to the Holy Land. Palestine Gardens info@palestinegardens.org.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Model

John 4:10, 13-18, 24-26

By Andy Vaughn

The following question deserves a true answer that only you can provide, "How many of you witnessed to a non-believer over the course of the last year?" Statistics prove that most Christians have not shared their faith in Christ over the last year, and even more troubling is that many Christians will never witness to a non-Christian. This question and its answer should strike many Bible-believing church members to the very core.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB) states, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The com-



Vaughn

mandment is clear, but why is it that so many Christians are not active in their witness? I believe the answer to why so many Christians are not sharing their faith is because they are following the wrong model.

Jesus set the example for Christians to follow. The question you have to consider is, "Am I willing to follow the method of witnessing that Jesus provided me with through Scripture?" Let's take a look at God's word to learn how we can become more effective witnesses.

John 4:7 (NASB) says, "There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' On His way to Galilee Jesus had to pass through Samaria according to John 4:4. While He was in

Samaria, Jesus asked this woman to give Him a drink, and at this request they began a conversation that would change this woman's life for all of eternity. Jesus was willing to initiate contact so that He could witness to her. It is so important for us today to initiate contact with those around us so that we can be effective witnesses for the Gospel of Christ.

The major problem today is that so many Christians are not willing to initiate contact with a non-Christian about their faith in Christ. Many believe that if they can just be a good example that is enough. Although being a good example is a good start, it often is not enough when it comes to providing a witness for someone that needs to hear the truth about Christ.

Verse 9 describes the woman's disbelief that Jesus, a man, was willing to speak with her. This ought to make Christians think long and hard about reaching out to those that

do not know Christ. We must not allow the label of Christian or non-Christian be a barrier that hinders us from an opportunity to witness. Christians must be willing to reach out to those that do not believe in Christ despite their differences! If you are not willing to spread the Gospel to those that do not believe, who will?

John 4:15 (NASB) says, "The woman said to Him, 'Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw.' Prior to verse 15, Jesus describes the water that He has as living water that provides eternal life. Jesus knew her immediate need of water for drinking and cooking, and He also knew her need of salvation. Jesus identified her need and then proceeded to describe how that need could be met through a saving relationship with Him. An effective witness is one that identifies the felt needs that someone may have, and then proceeds to present the Gospel in a way that meets their spiritual need in Christ.

Verses 16-18 describe how

Jesus drove the woman's spiritual need home in her personal life. Jesus revealed to her the sinful life in which she was living. Her sinful life could not be cleansed by the drinking water from the well, but could only be cleansed through the forgiveness found in Christ. She needed the living water that Jesus had talked about. An effective witness must address the sinfulness of man and the need to be washed clean of that sin.

John 4:26 (NASB) says, "Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He.' Jesus identified Himself to the woman as the One who could bring the joy of salvation into her life. The focus of any Gospel presentation must primarily be on Jesus Christ.

Sharing the Gospel must always reflect the model that Jesus set for us. We must model our lives after HIM so that we may effectively carry the good news of Christ to those around us.

Vaughn is pastor of First Church, Fulton.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Do You Help Or Exploit?

Genesis 25:29-34; 27:6-8, 15-19, 34-36

By Melleen Moore

"Have it your way" was a popular fast food commercial in recent years. It seemed to suggest the importance of satisfying one's personal desire. That same personal desire contributed to the downfall of Isaac's family as he prepared for death. A family that began in faith and obedience to God had drifted apart from each other and from God.

Agree To Help Freely
Genesis 25:29-34

Isaac and Rebekah were blessed with twin boys when Isaac was sixty years old. Rebekah was told by the Lord that two nations were in her womb. Esau, first born, was described as red and hairy. The second born was smooth-skinned Jacob holding Esau's heel indicating the older would

serve the younger. Esau, an outdoorsman, loved to hunt wild game and was favored by Isaac. Jacob was a milder businessman raising the family's herds and a favorite of Rebekah. Esau arrived home exhausted, hungry and disappointed from a long hunt. He desired some red stew that Jacob was cooking. Esau agreed to trade his birthright even to the point of swearing saying, "Look, I am about to die; so what is the birthright to me?" (Genesis 25:32 NKJV). The birthright was the honor of the firstborn including a double portion of inheritance and becoming the leader of the family. Jacob took advantage of Esau's physical condition by suggesting the trade of the birthright. The family moved to Gerar due to a famine in Canaan and endured confrontations over water wells. Isaac, like his father Abraham,



Moore

passed his wife off as his sister. However, God warned King Abimelech not to harm Rebekah or Isaac. A truce was made to live in peace and God prospered Isaac. Esau's choice to marry two Canaanite women grieved Isaac and Rebekah and showed his disregard for spiritual leadership.

Rejoice in Other's Good Fortune

Genesis 27:6-8

The colloquial phrase "two wrongs do not make a right" could be said of Jacob with the assistance of his mother, Rebekah and their plot. Upon hearing Isaac's instructions for Esau to hunt game and prepare a tasty food so that he might eat and bless him, Rebekah promptly began scheming. She could not rejoice over a blessing for Esau and allow God to work in Jacob's life. Rebekah was choosing to run ahead of God for Jacob to be blessed and to become the family leader.

Act with Integrity

Genesis 27:15-19

Jacob, following Rebekah's orders, got two young goats for her to prepare the tasty food that Isaac desired. Her plan included using skin from the kid goats to make Jacob's hand and neck hairy and to dress Jacob in clothing that would smell like Esau. Deceit was not enough; Jacob had to lie four times in the following verse alone. "I am Esau, your firstborn; I have done as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game that your soul may bless me" (Gen. 27:19 NKJV). Isaac questioned in his heart if this was Esau on two counts — the voice and the quickness of food preparation. The hairy goat skin and the choice clothing seemed to satisfy Isaac enough to give the blessing to the deceiver. Jacob knew the acts were deceitful but was more concerned with getting caught than rightness of the action. Receiving the blessing was costly, for Jacob's consequences were great — strife in the family, his brother's plot to kill him, leaving home never to see his mother again, and later being deceived by Laban, his uncle.

Avoid Causing Harm

Genesis 27:34-36

"Bless me — me also, O my father" (Genesis 27:34 NKJV) were the words of Esau as he came to Isaac with his tasty food. Isaac realized he had been deceived into blessing Jacob. In the culture of that day, a person's word was his bond so much so that the blessing was irrevocable. Jacob would be Esau's master, as he had been blessed which makes the giving of the birthright official. Esau's cry was loud and angry blaming Jacob for taking his birthright although Esau had traded it for a bowl of lentil soup. Esau's cry continued, "Have you only one blessing my father? Bless me — me also, O my father!" (Genesis 27: 38 NKJV). Hatred and malice were tearing at Esau's heart. He was comforted with a plan to kill his brother after his father's death. This plan caused the family to break apart, which lasted for twenty years as Jacob went to live with Rebekah's brother, Laban.

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Special New Testament spotlights True Love Waits

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — True Love Waits (TLW) has a new resource: A special New Testament focused on the abstinence-until-marriage movement and other challenges young people face.

The True Love Waits New Testament is a joint project of TLW and Holman Bible Outreach, both divisions of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. The TLW New Testament, which includes a salvation message, an introduction to True Love Waits and a commitment page, was released to coincide with Valentine's Day, when many True

Love Waits' abstinence-until-marriage commitment ceremonies are held in churches and other venues around the world.

In Africa, thanks to a major donation to LifeWay's A Defining Moment philanthropic campaign, 100,000 copies of the TLW New Testament will be distributed for free in places where True Love Waits International has staff in place. Another 30,000 copies will be sold in the United States to churches, youth groups and individuals for \$1.95 each.

Phill Burgess, executive director of Holman Bible Outreach, said the TLW New Testament "not only will help young people

keep their commitments to remain abstinent until marriage, but also will provide spiritual guidance for a variety of challenges they face each day."

Jimmy Hester, cofounder of True Love Waits, meanwhile noted, "Having a New Testament available to compliment our abstinence message in Africa, a place that has been ravaged by AIDS, gives us an added dimension. For some young people in Africa, this may be the only New Testament they ever receive and may be the only opportunity to engage God's Word."

Hester said he expects youth groups to buy TLW New

Testaments not only for individual and group use, but also for outreach to their friends and perhaps to send to students in Africa.

Sharon Pumpelly, lead consultant for True Love Waits International, said the TLW movement will be careful to make sure the project is for no gain than the blessing of being obedient to God. "In areas where we have had New Testaments donated to us, we have seen a great number of youths make commitments to Christ in the follow-up of their abstinence commitment," she said.

"A New Testament may be given during counseling following a TLW presentation, based on the need of that moment," she noted. "We also are talking about encouraging young people who are in follow-up groups to memorize Scripture and then receive a New Testament."

More than 100 organizations and thousands of churches have adopted the use of True Love Waits throughout the world. The first True Love Waits national celebration took place in July 1994, when more than 210,000 covenant cards were displayed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.



1. Mission Friends, Concord Church, Booneville



2. Children, New Hope Church, Tupelo



5. wMu, First Church, Raleigh



6. Vanlandingham ordination, New Prospect Church, Oxford

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. The Mission Friends of Concord Church, Booneville, collected 30 teddy bears to be used by the sheriff's department with children in time of distress.
2. The children of New Hope Church, Tupelo, collected \$128.60 in pennies for the Memorial to the Missing in January. Shown are Zak Roberts, Maggie Reeder, Jenifer Roberts, and Madison Sanders. Lowell Johnson, pastor.
3. Sunrise Church, Carthage, will host a wild game supper Mar. 6, 6:30 p.m. Walt Grayson, guest speaker. For information, call (601) 741-2225 or 267-4156.
4. Concord Church, Pelahatchie, will host Jerry Trammell in concert Feb. 24, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received. For more information, call (601) 420-0943.
5. The wMu of First Church, Raleigh, collected diapers and wipes for a pregnancy crisis center. Shown are Mary Fuller, Bonnie Lewis, Fredna Crumpton, Nell Clark, Cody Young, Mary Sanders, Carolyn Hanks, Elizabeth Hegwood, and Freddie Ballard.
6. New Prospect Church, Oxford, ordained Kevin Vanlandingham as deacon Jan. 27. Shown are pastor Ken White, Vanlandingham, Stacie Vanlandingham, and Ross Robertson.
7. Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, broke ground on the site of their new church Jan. 20. Shown are Johnny Lewis, Barbara Moody, Betty Murry, James Spears Jr., Jimmy Headley, Calvin Hadley, Rod Bosarge, James Spears Sr., pastor Roy Moody, and Ross Dunkley.
8. The Northeast MS Christian Women's Job Corps, a ministry of wMu, hosted an M&M Christmas fellowship for 18 mentors and mentees of the Tupelo site. Shown are the participants.
9. A group from Calvary Church, Pascagoula, recently traveled to the Baptist Children's Village to present mission dolls to Celeste Cade, PR associate at the Village. The dolls were made by the Women on Mission group at the church.



7. Groundbreaking, Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg



8. Northeast MS Christian Women's Job Corps



9. Cade, with dolls from Calvary Church, Pascagoula